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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a combustion engine having an exhaust to emit water and exhaust gases from the exhaust; and

a sound-dampening device coupled between the exhaust and a muffler, the sound-dampening device including a tubular member having an inner diameter and two or more rings located on the inner diameter of the tubular member; each ring having an inner surface exposed directly to an inner space of the tubular member, wherein the rings are positioned and adapted to create water droplets as the exhaust gases and the water exit the combustion engine.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the engine is within a genset.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the tubular member includes a flexible exhaust hose for connecting between the exhaust and a muffler, the flexible exhaust hose having an inner diameter, and the two or more rings are located on the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose and an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the tubular member includes an exhaust tube having a first end connectable to the exhaust, the tube including an inner diameter, the inner diameter having the at least two rings mounted thereto, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the tube and an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the pipe.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the system is adapted for marine use.

6. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a flexible exhaust hose for connecting between a combustion engine and a muffler, the flexible exhaust hose having an inner diameter; and

two or more rings located on the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose and an inner surface having an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust hose, each of the inner surfaces of the rings exposed directly to an inner space of the flexible exhaust hose, wherein the rings are positioned and adapted to create water droplets as exhaust gases and water exit the combustion engine.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the two or more rings are spaced about 41/2 inches apart from each other along a length of the flexible exhaust hose.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the flexible exhaust hose has an outer diameter of about 2 inches.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the flexible exhaust hose is adapted for marine conditions.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the length of the flexible exhaust hose is about 6 feet or less.

11. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a rigid tube having a first end connectable to an exhaust outlet of a combustion engine, the tube including ~~an~~ a uniform inner diameter, the inner diameter having at least two rings mounted thereto, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the tube and an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the pipe, wherein the rings are adapted to create water droplets as exhaust gases and cooling water exit the combustion engine.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the tube is a rigid metal pipe.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein a second end of the tube is connectable to a flexible marine exhaust hose.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the tube includes a first ring mounted to the first end of the tube and a second ring mounted to a second end of the pipe.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the tube and the rings are stainless steel.

16. (Canceled)